

"Tough, you cannot get counted, or else if you call in we will find a translator for you?"

What is wrong in publishing the form in Creole? They will publish the instructions in Creole, but they refuse to publish the seven-question short form in Creole. And that is true of all the other languages. They do not even do it for Braille. If you cannot see, what do you have to do? You have to call the Census Bureau and discuss it with someone on the telephone. Why will they not listen to some ideas to improve it?

Another one that local officials should support is to give them a chance to check the numbers before they become final. They did it in 1990. It is not a new idea. But they are afraid for people to check their work. They make mistakes. We all make mistakes. Why not allow local officials, mayors, city managers, county commissioners, what have you, to check the numbers before they become official?

Conducting the census is hard work, and we need to concentrate our efforts into doing the best census possible to eliminate the undercount and get everyone counted.

#### YOUNG PEOPLE WORKING FOR LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MORELLA). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, an important part of what makes livable communities is a broad concept of what constitutes the infrastructure that constructs them. That means both the natural environment as well as the built environment. And most important, it also means our people.

Today I would like to focus for a moment on one of the most important parts of the human infrastructure in a livable community, our young people. They are a key part in our community in Portland, Oregon, not just young people at work learning to prepare for their future careers but making real accomplishments as they go.

This week in Washington, D.C., one of my constituents, Jennifer Fletcher, from Grant High School, is being honored by Seventeen Magazine for her volunteerism. Jennifer is one of those extraordinary young people, although only 16 years of age, who has focused in on things that will make a difference in her community. I think in part inspired by a movie that was shot at her high school, "Mr. Holland's Opus," a Richard Dreyfus story about how a music teacher was able to inspire a community to make investments for its future.

Jennifer has done something that would make any screen writer proud.

She has founded "Arts Alive" in our community in response to funding cuts for arts programs at their schools. "Arts Alive" is dedicated to providing funding for these schools, and she has exhibited extraordinary creativity in how to go about it.

Her most recent accomplishment was to stage a benefit concert. She approached her favorite singer, Jackson Browne, to help her in the cause. She handled all the details from ticket sales, to securing a Portland concert hall, to arranging transportation and hotel accommodations for the band. And as a result of her dedication and marvelous skills, the concert was a huge success, bringing together people in the community to celebrate the arts, to be a part of a larger effort, and, by the way, raising almost \$100,000.

I am proud of the difference that Ms. Fletcher has made. I applaud her future efforts. But they are just the tip of the iceberg in our community. As I look at the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, which has put young people to work improving the environment, hiring at-risk high school young people, giving them school credit for their work but giving them real-life activities where they were shoulder to shoulder with professionals in creating recreation trails, viewing areas, restoring watershed, preventing soil erosion, promoting recycling, and participating in wetland restoration projects, real work for real kids, learning kids, earning while they went.

In David Douglas High School, I have seen young people solve very creatively a transportation problem between two of their buildings by creating their own light rail line, converting two buses, laying the track, all with volunteers and donated labor.

The Northwest Service Academy, with 150 AmeriCorps volunteers, working with over 10,000 people in the community, dealing with issues of storm water runoff, roof drain disconnect, converting hundreds of homes to different approaches to solve this problem much more cheaply than if we were just building concrete underground cisterns.

The goal of a livable community through smart growth and careful planning is to get more out of our scarce dollars, our land, and our people. By harnessing the creative power of our youth, putting them to work through education, employment, and environmental activities is one of the most creative ways that we can truly make America's communities livable.

And for all our talk about smart growth and transportation initiatives and protecting the environment, I hope that we will continue to focus on ways to harness our young people to be full partners in making our communities livable.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11 a.m.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.) the House stood in recess until 11 a.m.

□ 1100

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LINDER) at 11 a.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

O gracious God, from whom all blessings flow, we remember in our prayer all those who turn to You with their petitions and their needs. Where there is hunger, grant nourishment; where there is sadness, grant a full measure of joy and gladness; where there is uncertainty or anxiety about the future, grant Your peace that passes all human understanding. May Your good spirit, O God, that is with us in all the moments of life grant peace and pardon and hope to us and to all Your people now and evermore. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KLECZKA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KLECZKA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 540. An act to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit transfers or discharges of residents of nursing facilities as a result of a voluntary withdrawal from participation in the Medicaid Program.

The message also announced, That pursuant to section 201(a)(2) of Public Law 93-344, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore of the Senate